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City of Ashland, Wisconsin ~ Parks and Recreation Department  
400 4<sup>th</sup> Ave West Ashland ~ WI 54806 ~ [www.coawi.org](http://www.coawi.org)

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**Parks and Recreation Committee Memo**

Monday January 27, 2025  
City Hall Council Chambers  
601 Main St W Ashland WI 54806

**Information Items/Updates**

- Parks
  - Kreher Park Campground Rehabilitation:
    - Council approved the purchase of a replacement restroom from Huffcut for Kreher Park.
    - Old restroom was demoed by the PW Crew at the end of December
    - City staff has been working with Parkitecture on a final concept design and OPC (opinion of probable cost)
  - Kreher Park Redevelopment: Boat Landing
    - The Council approved entering into a contract with SmithGroup to assist in updating the engineering and construction documents and bidding. The City Engineer will assist with construction oversight
  - Waterfront Trail Repair 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave W to Pig Iron Dock
    - Niles Fetter, City Engineer, has started to work on this project. Bid solicitation will be send out in March.
- Recreation
  - Program Offerings and Participation Numbers
    - Roller Derby = 11
    - Martial Arts = 13 (between Beginners and All Belts)
    - Ninja = 12
    - Gymnastics = 156
    - Mini Masterpiece Mondays = 5
    - No School Days = 7 (only counts 2 of 7 days)
    - Pickleball = LOTS
    - Climbing = 15-20 people/night
    - Volleyball = 10
    - W's Exercise Class = 8 (a private group that uses the BCC 2/wk to do silver sneakers)
  - APR will start advertising for the Summer Recreation Coordinator in Feb, this person will work with Hailey to plan and implement Summer Day Camp and other programs
  - The BCC has been busy with pickleball, birthday parties, and drops ins

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- We have started to offer open roller skating in Mondays during the day and climbing is switching nights due to instructor availability.
  
- Urban Forestry
  - The City was awarded a 2025 Urban Forestry Grant. Funding will be used to hire a certified arborist to assist in continuing to implement the City of Ashland's EAB Management Plan. Purchase up to 150 trees (bare root and 2.5" DBH), Assist of the removal of up to 100 trees majority ash, train additional staff by attending CTMI, create outreach and education materials about oak wilt, native tree/shrub planting and EAB, and update to the City of Ashland Codification of Ordinances Chapter 454: Planting, Maintaining, And Removing Trees And Shrubs
  
- Community Garden
  - No Update, City Staff is seeking a person to serve on the PRC from the group
  
- Ashland Farmers Market
  - APR Staff will start soliciting for a Marker Manager in early February
  
- Other

**IV. Business Items:**

1. Discussion on the Parks Master Plan and Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update
  - The PMP was passed by the City Council on January 14, 2025. City Staff and MSA have decided to have the PMP become part of the CORP and we will vote on that whole document in May (hopefully). APR staff signed an addendum with MSA to assist in the update of the City's CORP. The PMP will help guide staff's work and keep us on track in maintaining and improving the parks we have. A CORP is important for the visionary aspect and for creating long-term goals for the community and City to try and meet. The City's CORP relates to the Wisconsin Statewide CORP (SCORP) which evaluates outdoor recreation supply, demand, and trends; and serves as the blueprint for local CORPs. This is an opportunity to continue the Nov 21 discussion.
  
2. Discussion and Approval to Seek Additional Funding for 2025 and 2026 Park Projects
  - City staff is seeking approval of a resolution to apply for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) outdoor recreation grant funds from the Common Council on January 28, 2025. APR staff is seeking input from the PRC and based on the PMP and future CORP to apply for the following potential parks projects and grants:

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- Kreher Park/Ashland Rails to Trails System (ARTS) Pedestrian Trail Railroad Connector: DNR Recreation Trail Program This grant proposal would seek assistance to pave the old railroad corridor on the bluff behind the Kreher Park Campground, making a seamless connector between the Kreher Park Boat Launch site and the Ashland Ore dock. RTP is a federal grant program, so the DNR Stewardship Funds received in 2022 could be used as a match to any funding received. This funding opportunity will only be sought if the allocated funding for the Kreher Park Campground Rehabilitation Project cannot support this part of the project. Grant application deadline: May 1, 2025.
  - Kreher Park Redevelopment: Water Access: DNR Sport Fish Restoration Program This grant proposal would seek assistance with the construction of the new Kreher Park Boat Launch, specifically for fishing access and the floating piers. This is a federally funded grant so funds from the awarded RBF grant in 2024 can be used as a match. This grant will only be submitted if the estimated cost of the Kreher Park Boat Launch project comes in over the allocated budget.
  - Park Upgrades: Hodgkin's Ballfield(s), Beaser Ballfields, Bayview Playground, and/or TBD: DNR Stewardship Funds These projects would be planned within the 2026 Budget and construction season, and relate to the 2025-200 Capital Improvement Projects List, PMP and updated CORP. APR will work with the PRC and PW to ensure if a proposal is submitted, it meets the needs of both departments. The match would come from Fund 453 Waterfront Development. The grant application deadline is May 1, 2025.
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3. Discussion and Possible Action on Hiring a Contractor to Update Ordinance 454: Planting, Maintaining and Removing Trees and Shrubs
- APR Staff is seeking the PRC input in hiring a consult to assist in the update of [Ordinance 454](#). Of we choose to do this, our 2025 UF Grant could be amended.
4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approval to Apply to be Recognized as A Bird City Wisconsin and Observe World Migratory Bird Day on May 24, 2025
- Since 2013 the City of Ashland has been designated as a Bird City Wisconsin municipality and is one of eighty communities in Wisconsin with this designation. Applications are due in March 2025. The Chequamegon Birding and Nature Festival will be held May 22-24, 2025, organized by the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce. It is during this event we announce the World Migratory Bird Day observance. Bird City Application is due March 31, 2025.

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**Next Meeting Date**

February 2025

**VI. Comments and Questions**

**VII. Adjourn**

*It is possible that members of and a possible quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information or speak about a subject, over which they have decision-making responsibility. Any governmental body at the above stated meeting will take no action other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. The City of Ashland does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Sara Hudson at (715) 685-1644.*